

REMARKS

The Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-13, 15 and 17-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are amended and claim 10 is canceled. New claims 18-22 are added. Claim 2 is amended in part to incorporate the features of canceled claim 10. The amendments to claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are supported in the application in at least paragraphs [0098]-[0108] and Figs. 4 and 5. New claims 18-22 are supported in the application in at least paragraphs [0104]-[0106] and Figs. 4 and 5, for example. No new matter is added. In view of at least the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,493 to Enami et al. ("Enami") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,564,606 to LeChevalier ("606 LeChevalier") and in view of U.S. Patent Number 7,050,024 to LeChevalier ("024 LeChevalier"); claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Enami in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,113,134 to Plus et al. ("Plus") and in view of '024 LeChevalier; and claims 9, 13, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Enami and '606 LeChevalier and '024 LeChevalier and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,861,810 to Rutherford. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applied references fail to disclose or suggest an electro-optical device including precharge signal lines and test lines where "each of the test lines being shared with a corresponding precharge supply line to form a shared line that extends at least from a connection with the at least one data line along one line toward a precharge signal-generating circuit and an output of the detection signal," as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action cites '024 LeChevalier as allegedly disclosing shared lines and asserts that in Fig. 8 of '024 LeChevalier, the right side of element 274 constitutes test lines and the left side of 274 constitutes precharge signal supply lines. See Office Action at page 5. The Office Action further asserts on pages 2 and 3 that "column connector, 274, is clearly a single line, which electrically connects the two circuits to the data line, which the pixel resides on. Furthermore, during precharge operation of device, the precharge signal will clear extend towards the right hand side of the column connector, in essence sending the precharge signal all along column connector 274. The same is true with regards to the testing signal. From this it should be clear that the column connector is shared amongst the precharge and testing circuitry."

While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of '024 LeChevalier, even under the Examiner's interpretation the alleged shared line in '024 LeChevalier does not disclose the features of claim 1. As can be seen from Fig. 8 of '024 LeChevalier, any precharge signal is supplied from circuit 294 on the left side of Fig. 8 to connector 274, and any detection signal is output along 274 toward switch 822 on the right side of Fig. 8. Fig. 8 does not suggest that a shared line extends from the connection with the data line along one line toward a precharge signal-generating circuit and a detection signal output, as required in claim 1. The alleged shared line in Fig. 8 of '024 LeChevalier branches into two lines from the connection with the data line; one branch extends toward circuitry 294 and the other extends toward switch 822. Thus, for at least these reasons claim 1 is patentable over the applied references.

Independent claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 recite similar features to those referred in connection with claim 1 above, and are therefore also patentable over the applied references.

Claims 4, 7, 9, 11-13, 15 and 17 depend from one of independent claims 1-3, 5 and 6 and are therefore also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons enumerated above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

New claims 18-22 depend from one of independent claim 1-3, 5 and 6 and are therefore also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons enumerated above as well as for the additional features they recite.

For example, new claim 18 further defines the shared lines, and recites features that are not suggested by the applied references, in particular '024 LeChevalier. Claim 18 recites that the shared line "extends from at least the connection with the at least one data line to a third switch, wherein the third switch controls the supply of the precharge signal from the precharge signal-generating circuit to the shared line, and controls the output of the detection signal. " Thus, claim 18 requires that a shared portion of the line extends from a connection with the data line to a third switch. In one embodiment, the third switch is illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 of the pending application, where the third switches correspond to gate transistors Q12 and Q11 in Fig. 5, for example.


'024 LeChevalier, cited in the Office Action as allegedly disclosing shared lines, does not teach or suggest the features of claim 18 even under the Examiner's interpretation of the "shared line" in '024 LeChevalier because any alleged shared line in Fig. 8 of LeChevalier does not extend from the connection with the data line to a switch that controls the supply of a precharge signal to the shared lines and also controls the output of the test signal. Any precharge signal in '024 LeChevalier originates in circuit 294 (Fig. 8) which does not include a switch that also controls the output of a detection signal. Any detection signal in '024 LeChevalier is output via the circuit illustrated on the right-hand side of Fig. 8. Thus, claim 18 is also patentable over the applied references.

Claims 19-22 recite similar features to those referred to in connection with claim 18 above, and are therefore also patentable over the applied references. Accordingly, allowance of new claims 18-22 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments:
Request for Continued Examination
Request for Three-Month Suspension of Examination

Date: October 30, 2007

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